

COUNTY PAYMENTS FOR HARNEY COUNTY

(Mr. WALDEN of Oregon asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, by refusing to renew the county payments program, Congress, this Congress, has broken its pledge to rural areas all across this country, such as Harney County, Oregon.

County payments account for 70 percent of the road budget in Harney County, in part because 78 percent of Harney County is Federal land. That's an area nearly the size of New Jersey.

Now, imagine if the tax revenue from 78 percent of the land in New Jersey suddenly dried up. It would be paralyzing, just as paralyzing as the loss of county payments is proving in the rural West.

Harney County Judge Steve Grasty said, "It is now so bad that we've got fewer road crew employees than snow removal equipment. Our road department is now 50 percent of its historic staffing level."

H.R. 3058 would give some relief to this problem and would help keep the roads open in Harney County and schools open across the West.

Yet the Democratic leadership in the House has held this bill hostage on the Union Calendar since January 15. Today is day 120 that this bill could have been brought to the floor and voted on. It is a bipartisan bill. The lead sponsor is my colleague from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Keep the commitment to these rural communities. Pass H.R. 3058.

HONORING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Mr. SCOTT of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in honor of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. As a member of the Congressional Asian American Pacific American Caucus, and as the only Member of Congress with any Filipino ancestry, I'm pleased to speak on the floor today in honor of this great month.

Since the early 1800s, the AAPI community has played a vital role in the development and growth of this country. I'd like to take just a moment to highlight one of the many contributions that the AAPI community has played in American history, and that is, the accomplishments of the Filipino American veterans during World War II.

Members of the Commonwealth of the Philippines' military fought tirelessly for the United States during World War II. The invaluable service that the members of the military helped provide us the necessary support to defeat the Japanese empire in the Pacific.

Last year, Congressman FILNER introduced, and I cosponsored, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, which will ensure that the Filipino veterans who served in World War II will receive the veterans benefits promised to them over 60 years ago. We need to pass this bill as soon as possible.

□ 1015

SECOND LIFE

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, Second Life, it's not just a new job or a new start, it's a virtual world online with over 6 million people. Run by the San Francisco company Linden Lab, Second Life allows anyone in their world to do anything. And the labs make \$1 million each night.

And what is offered in Second Life? My staff found rooms leading people to commit suicide, satanic worship, buying assault weapons, leading human sacrifice, and rape rooms; game players choose to rape or be raped. This content is totally inappropriate and leads to the objectification lessons that are especially inappropriate for young boys.

Linden Lab claims that it provides a teen area, but the fine print of their user agreement clearly states that adults prowl in the children's area and children are in the adult area.

Second Life's K Street lobbyists say, "Trust us," but I think we should trust informed and aware parents. I urge Members to join me in a letter to the Federal Trade Commission worrying about the dangers of Second Life.

NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK

(Mr. FARR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR. I'd like to welcome our guests in the gallery today because this week is the 25th anniversary of National Tourism Week.

As co-chair of the Congressional Tourism Caucus, along with my co-chair JON PORTER of Nevada and nearly 100 Members of Congress, we recognize the importance of the tourism industry to our national economy and to our local communities.

It is the fastest growing industry in the world. From mom and pop restaurants to local unique shops to local State and national parks to this Capitol, which is a tourist attraction, there is so much to experience in this great country.

The tourism industry also shows America's best face. Travelers experience warm, friendly and compassionate people that make up our country. This person-to-person contact between different cultures can help dissolve stereotypes and misconceptions. As

Mark Twain once said, "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness."

So remember that while our economy grows, tourism plays a multibillion-dollar aspect of that, employing more than 7.5 million people. I hope you will join me in welcoming the representatives of the tourism industry that are here this week and celebrating National Tourism Week.

The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.

HONORING OUR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to welcome to Washington, DC, a special group of World War II veterans from Georgia's Sixth District. These proud patriots are here for one remarkable day as part of the Honor Flight Program.

Thanks to the generosity of the Roswell Rotary Club, these men and women will have the opportunity to visit the stirring World War II memorial built in their honor and to pay their respect to fallen comrades at Arlington National Cemetery.

As young Americans, these proud patriots showed courage and compassion, answering the call to serve at a time of great need. Through amazing sacrifice, they are responsible for the preservation of our treasured American way of life. Our community is extremely proud to be home to so many of the brave veterans who fought for freedom at a critical moment in our history.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Georgia's Sixth District, I offer our deepest appreciation. And I know that my colleagues will join me in welcoming our veterans to our Nation's capital and thanking them, these soldiers of the greatest generation, for their invaluable service.

MATERNAL MORTALITY

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, the fact that more than half a million women die in what is the most natural of processes and what should be one of the happiest, pregnancy and birth, is totally unacceptable and should call everyone in this world to action. But for simple and inexpensive medication, adequate trained providers, and because of poverty and poor sanitation, but mostly from the lack of an adequate global response to this tragedy, a mother somewhere dies every 60 seconds.

These same factors, in addition to lack of access and other social determinants of health, also cause maternal mortality rates among black women in

the United States to be three to four times higher than that of white women. Because of this, the United States ranks 41st in the world, with many poorer countries having lower mortality rates.

Reducing maternal mortality is the fifth Millennium Goal and we are so far from reaching it. Last year, Johnson & Johnson and the Government of Norway stepped up in a big way to help.

Just having celebrated Mother's Day, this is a good time for other companies and other countries, especially ours, to make sure we meet this goal and keep our, and all, mothers alive.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK AND NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, as we take time to recognize the contributions of more than 900,000 Federal, State and local law enforcement officials who serve this Nation and the more than 18,000 who have lost their lives over the years, I want to express my deep appreciation to the law enforcement officials who keep the residents of the First District of Ohio safe and secure.

Each day, police officers put their lives on the line to ensure that our laws are enforced and our communities are safe. Too often their critical work goes overlooked and underappreciated.

I would like to thank those who dedicate themselves each day, as well as honor those who have fallen in the line of duty, for their sacrifices and dedication to our families, our communities, and our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the efforts of law enforcement officials in their communities and nationwide by supporting National Police Week and National Peace Officers Memorial Day.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATERNAL HEALTH

(Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add my voice in support for keeping women around the world alive by ensuring they have access to basic maternal health care services.

We are blessed to live in a country where women can access prenatal and obstetric care, but that's not the case everywhere. In fact, more than half a million women die every year of pregnancy-related causes, along with nearly 10 million newborns and infants. Most of these deaths are preventable and needless.

All women deserve the right to go through pregnancy and childbirth without fear of losing their life. Basic access to maternal health care is a

human right that must no longer be ignored.

I want to thank Congresswoman CAPPS for sponsoring House Resolution 1022, which recognizes the need for quality health care for moms in the U.S. as well as around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to honor mothers by investing in the necessary health care to keep them healthy and alive.

COAL

(Mr. LATTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, our Nation's industrial revolution was powered by coal, and with the current state of our energy market, coal should receive the attention it deserves. It is an important energy source for our country.

Coal is the United States' most abundant and efficient fuel source, and we hold over one-quarter of the world's coal reserves. The energy content of the Nation's coal reserves exceeds that of all the world's known oil reserves. In my home State of Ohio, we have reserves that will last for 250 years.

Coal provides more than half the electricity consumed by Americans. And work is currently being done in my district to develop coal gasification, which is a process that increases the efficiency of coal within a closed system.

The current Democratic leadership in Congress refuses to invest money into the coal gasification process, while China at the same time is investing \$24 billion into the same technology.

We must embrace all forms of energy to keep our economy and products competitive with the rest of the world.

IMPROVING MATERNAL HEALTH

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, this past weekend we celebrated Mother's Day. I was fortunate enough to celebrate with my children and grandchildren. Sadly, many women never get the chance to celebrate this day with their family.

Throughout the world, a woman dies every single minute in childbirth. I think most of our congressional colleagues would be shocked to learn that this problem isn't faced by women in developing nations alone. The United States ranks 41st in the world, lower than all other industrialized nations, when it comes to maternal mortality. Let us use this opportunity, while Mother's Day is fresh in our minds, to renew our commitment to improving maternal health both at home and abroad.

I thank the 117 of our colleagues in the House of Representatives for co-sponsoring House Resolution 1022, a resolution underscoring our challenges

and urging us all to support the goal of a safe and healthy childbirth for every mother and baby here in the United States and all around the world.

DOMESTIC FUEL PRODUCTION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. On April 24, 2006, while campaigning to become Speaker of the House, the Democrat leader said, "Democrats have a commonsense plan to help bring down skyrocketing gas prices."

On the day the Democrats took control of Congress in January of 2007, gas in my home State of Pennsylvania was averaging \$2.37 a gallon. Today, it's averaging over \$3.75 a gallon.

Many people have taken to calling this \$1.38 increase the "Pelosi premium." This Congress has yet to do anything substantive to help American families who are paying nearly \$4 a gallon at the pump.

The Democrats in Congress have been voting against increasing domestic oil and natural gas production as well as domestic refining capacity for years. This is a matter of supply and demand. We have billions of barrels of oil in Alaska and in the deep waters off the Outer Continental Shelf right here in the United States. Yet, due mostly to the Democratic opposition, we have been unable to access these vast resources. We should take steps now to increase production.

IN HONOR OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

(Ms. MATSUI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

There are over 15 million Asian Americans living in the United States, from the early Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Filipino immigrants to recent Vietnamese, Laotian and Hmong communities. The United States has benefited many ways from the contributions of these diverse cultures.

Through the telling of the Asian Pacific American experience, we illuminate the quality of opportunity that makes our country the wonderful place it is. From community involvement to business entrepreneurship, many Americans of Asian descent came to this country with very little and have been able to achieve the American Dream.

Asian Americans have also played a critical role in protecting our freedoms. During World War II, the Federal Government chose to intern 120,000 Americans of Japanese descent, including my mother and father and their entire families. The country learned the importance of balancing civil liberties